Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

COMMISSION
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Koror, PALAU
5-9 December 2011

FFA MEMBERS COMMENTS ON CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME

WCPFC8- 2011- DP/04
7 November 2011

Paper prepared by FFA Members

4 November 2011

Dr Charles Karnella
Chair
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356
Kolonia
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Dr Karnella,

FFA members' comments on Catch Documentation Scheme

I write in my capacity as the Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee on behalf of the 17 FFA Members.

TCC7 requested CCMs work intersessionally with PNG in order to finalise the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a WCPFC Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDS WG).

FFA members reiterate our support outlined at TCC7 for the ToR provided in *TCC7 DP13 Rev1*, and would like to see the tracked changes in this document accepted. We believe the ToR are a sound way forward for a successful and functional CDS WG. They do not pre-suppose the outcomes of the CDS WG and enable due consideration of all aspects of a comprehensive CDS; namely:

    a. Information to improve understanding of our resources;
    b. Verify and validate catch to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU;
    c. Trace catch to and from the market in a way that serves the interest and needs of all stakeholders including markets, consumers, and operators; and
    d. That takes into account development aspirations and the special requirements of SIDS.

FFA members do not want to further delay a WCPFC CDS. We believe that a physical meeting of the CDS WG is needed to enable CCMs to focus, prioritise and provide the forum for the intricacies of a WCPFC CDS to be worked through. At the Finance and Administration Committee in December 2011, FFA members will look for the WCPFC budget to provide for a physical meeting of the CDS WG.

Please forward this letter to PNG and all CCMs.

Should you or others require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Mark Young (mark.young@ffa.int).

Yours Sincerely

Faalavaau Perina Sila
Chair
Forum Fisheries Committee

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY PO Box 629 Honiara, Solomon Islands. Tel (677) 21124 Fax (677) 23995/20092 www.ffa.int

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